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Reference No.....

5 October 1988

Miss Kiyoko Furusawa,
Free East Timor Japan Coalition,
Solidarity with Independent East Timor,
9, Yoshida Shimoadachi-cho,
Sakyo-ku, Kyoto. 606.

Dear Miss Furusawa,

As promised when we met in my office last week, attached is a copy of the official news release (by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, on 5 September 1988) about the Zone of Co-operation proposed in the so-called Timor Gap. The sketch map of Areas A, B and C is not attached - you already have a copy of that.

The news release answers some of the questions you had about how the Governments of Australia and Indonesia intend to proceed. As to the geographical co-ordinates of each zone, my understanding is that these have not yet been finalised.

I also offered to provide you with some more formal language about Australia's attitude to the East Timor question. Since 1979, Australia has recognised Indonesian sovereignty over East Timor. My understanding is that the Australian Government does not condone the manner in which Indonesian incorporated East Timor, and this has been made known to the Indonesian Government.

Yours sincerely,

(COLIN D. HILL)
Counsellor (Commercial)

CDH:MY

Attach :